

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MONTRE 00563 281750Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 /098 W
-----014499 282213Z /64

R 281712Z MAR 78

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 212
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS MONTREAL 563

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: THE PETERING-OUT OF A POLL

REF: A) MONTREAL 534, B) MONTREAL 491, C) MONTREAL 463

1. DIMANCHE MATIN POLL (REFTELS) WHICH BEGAN WITH A BANG ENDED WITH A WHIMPER. FINAL INSTALLMENT DEALT WITH ONLY TWO SUBJECTS: THE PEPIN-ROBARTS COMMISSION ON CANADIAN UNITY, ABOUT WHICH THE PUBLIC IS SINGULARLY UNINFORMED, AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT, ABOUT WHICH IT IS NOT VERY ENTHUSIASTIC.

2. QUESTIONS DEALING WITH THE COMMISSION WERE:

(A) QUESTION: HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE PEPIN-ROBARTS COMMISSION?

TOTAL	
(N-714)	
YES	52.7
NO	43.0
NO OPNION	4.3
TOTAL	100.0
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(B) QUESTION: IN YOUR OPINION, THE PEPIN-ROBARTS COMMISSION IS INVESTIGATING: ORGANIZED CRIME, CANADIAN UNITY, THE RCMP?

YES (HAVE HEARD CANADIAN UNITY 46.0 PERCENT
ABOUT THE

COMMISSION) RCMP OR
(52.7 PERCENT) ORGANIZED CRIME 21.5 PERCENT

CANNOT IDENTIFY
ANY OF THE THREE
SUGGESTED CHOICES 32.5 PERCENT
TOTAL 100.0 PERCENT

3. THE ACCOMPANYING TEXT STATES THAT THE YOUNG (18-24) WERE LEAST FAMILIAR WITH THE COMMISSION (33.6 PERCENT) WHEREAS 59.2 PERCENT OF THOSE 35-44 CLAIMED TO KNOW OF IT. SOMEWHAT SURPRISINGLY, FEWER ANGLOPHONES (47.2 PERCENT) KNEW OF THE COMMISSION THAN FRANCOPHONES (54.3 PERCENT). THE RATION WAS GREATER BETWEEN MEN (60.5 PERCENT) AND WOMEN (45.8 PERCENT). COMMENT: WE DO NOT FIND THE OVERALL UNFAMILIARITY WITH OR CONFUSION ABOUT THIS COMMISSION VERY SURPRISING. QUEBEC IS OVER-RUN WITH COMMISSIONS (DIONNE ON ORGANIZED CRIME, KEABLE ON SINS OF THE MOUNTIES) AND UNITY GROUPS (AT LEAST SIX FAIRLY MAJOR ONES). THEIR MULTIPLICITY ALONE WOULD "TURN OFF" ALL BUT THE MOST DEVOTED STUDENTS OF POLITICS.

4. THE SYNDICALISM QUESTION WAS: ONE HEARS A LOT OF TALK ABOUT SYNDICATES AND THEIR ROLE IN SOCIETY. WOULD YOU SAY THAT IN QUEBEC THE SYNDICATES PLAY A POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE ROLE?

TOTAL 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 65 PLUS
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(N-714) (N-113) (N-209) (N-157) (N-98) (N-74) (N-63)
POSITIVE 36.4 44.2 41.1 35.0 33.7 36.5 14.3
NEGATIVE 38.7 38.1 40.2 41.4 33.7 32.4 42.9
NEITHER 9.9 6.2 8.6 8.9 16.3 9.5 14.3
NO OPINION 15.0 11.5 10.1 14.7 16.3 21.6 28.5
TOTAL 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0 100.0

COMMENT: EACH LINE SHOWS DECREASING POSITIVISM WITH INCREASING AGE.

5. THE POLL WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY A "PUTTING THE BEST FACE ON IT" INTERVIEW WITH PEQUISTE MNA JEAN-FRANCOIS BERTRAND, PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANT TO THE PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER. IN BRIEF, HE AVERRED THE POLL HAS "PROVOKED A VERY HEALTHY REFLECTION" AMONG THE GOVERNING DEPUTIES AND, FAR FROM BEING A SOURCE OF DISCOURAGEMENT, HAS PERMITTED THEM TO BECOME MORE PRECISE ABOUT FUTURE DIRECTIONS. IT HAS HELPED THEM TO REALIZE THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT GET SO FAR AHEAD OF PUBLIC OPINION THAT THE LOCOMOTIVE BECOMES DETACHED FROM THE TRAIN. COMMENT: WE WOULD THINK EVERYONE, INCLUDING AND PERHAPS PARTICULARLY OPPONENTS TO THE REGIME, WOULD CHEER ANY SUCH EFFECT. A BREATHING SPELL FROM

MORE THAN A YEAR'S TENSIONS WOULD BE WELCOME TO ALL.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z

Capture Date: 01 jan 1994

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PROVINCE, ELECTORATE, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE

Draft Date: 28 mar 1978

Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014

Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date:

Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960

Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1978MONTRE00563

Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D780135-0050

Format: TEL

From: MONTREAL

Handling Restrictions:

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780319/aaaaapjl.tel

Line Count: 118

Litigation Code IDs:

Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 424181bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY

Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: n/a

Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY

Reference: 78 MONTREAL 534, 78 MONTREAL 491, 78 MONTREAL 463

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 29 mar 2005

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier:

Review Release Date: N/A

Review Release Event: n/a

Review Transfer Date:

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3183622

Secure: OPEN

Status: NATIVE

Subject: THE PETERING-OUT OF A POLL

TAGS: PINT, CA

To: STATE

Type: TE

vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/424181bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings:

Sheryl P. Walter

Declassified/Released

US Department of State

EO Systematic Review

20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014